What is claimed is:

1.   1.   A method to provide copy protection for a content, the method
2   comprising:

3   descrambling the content delivered by a content provider using a local
4   key;

5   generating the local key from a programmable user key according to an
6   authorization code provided by the content provider.

1.   2.   The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

2   receiving the authorization code via a communication channel.

1.   3.   The method of Claim 2 wherein the communication channel is one
2   of a return path of a cable connection, a telephone connection, and a network.

1.   4.   The method of Claim 1 further comprising receiving the user key
2   from the content provider via the communication channel.

1.   5.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the user key is provided by a
2   master CA device having the authorization code.

1.   6.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the user key is embedded in a
2   medium embodying the content.

1.   7.   A conditional access (CA) device comprising:

2   a descrambler to descramble a content delivered by a content provider
3   using a local key;

4   a key generator coupled to the descrambler to generate the local key from

5   a user key according to an authorization code provided by the content provider

1   8.   The CA device of Claim 7 further comprising:

2   a communication interface coupled to the key generator to receive the

3   authorization code via a communication channel.

1   9.   The CA device of Claim 8 wherein the communication channel is

2   one of a return path of a cable connection, a telephone connection, and a

3   network.

1   10.   The CA device of Claim 7 wherein the communication interface

2   further receives the user key from the content provider via the communication

3   channel.

1   11.   The CA device of Claim 7 wherein the user key is provided by a

2   master CA device having the authorization code.

1   12.   The CA device of Claim 7 wherein the user key is embedded in a

2   medium embodying the content.

1   13.   A computer program product comprising:

2   a computer usable medium having computer program code embodied

3   therein to provide copy protection for a scrambled content, the computer

4   program product having:

5   computer readable program code for descrambling the content delivered

6 . by a content provider using a local key;

7   computer readable program code for generating the local key from a

8   programmable user key according to an authorization code provided by the

9   content provider.

1   14.   The computer program product of Claim 1 further comprising:

2   computer readable program code for receiving the authorization code via

3   a communication channel.

1   15.   The computer program product of Claim 2 wherein the

2   communication channel is one of a return path of a cable connection, a telephone

3   connection, and a network.

1   16.   The computer program product of Claim 1 further comprising

2   computer readable program code for receiving the user key from the content

3   provider via the communication channel.

1   17.   The computer program product of Claim 1 wherein the user key is

2   provided by a master CA device having the authorization code.

1   18.   The computer program product of Claim 1 wherein the user key is

2   embedded in a medium embodying the content.